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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/788,886

02/27/2004

Andreas Reinmann

34088/US

4573

74307

7590

05/12/2009

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EXAMINER

KOHARSKI, CHRISTOPHER

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3763

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/12/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgements

The Examiner acknowledges the reply filed 04/04/2007 in which no claims were amended and new claim 50 was added. Currently claim 27-41 and 43-50 are pending for examination in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

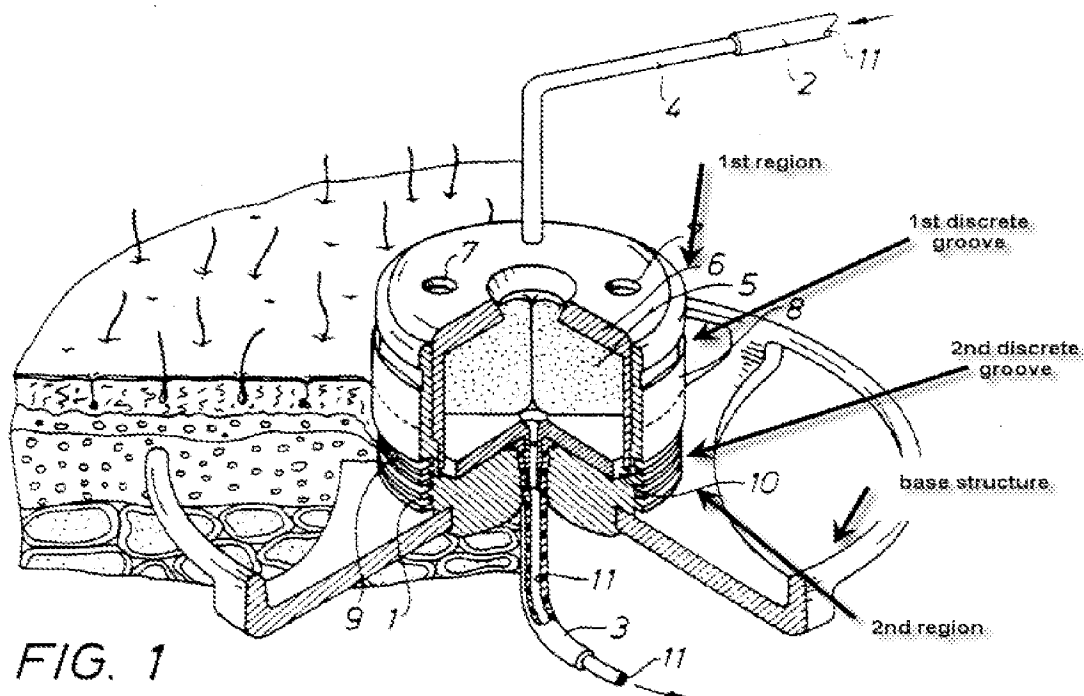
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 27-29, 32, and 43-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Svensson et al. (USPN5,098397). Svensson et al. discloses percutaneous access device.

Regarding claims 27-29, 32, and 43-50, Svensson et al. discloses an implant (Figure 1) comprising: a port structure comprising an outer wall (surface near 8) having a substantially uniform outer circumference interrupted by a plurality of regions having areas of a smaller outer circumference (lip near 6, grooves near 9), wherein a first region of the plurality of regions comprises one or more discrete tactile surface structures (first region see below, single groove), and a second region (second region see below) of the plurality of regions comprises a plurality of discrete tactile surface structures (grooves of 9), wherein each of said discrete tactile surface structures encircles the port structure and are arranged along a length of the port body that

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comprises at least a portion of an implant area, the plurality of discrete tactile surface structures (grooves near 9) improving ingrowth characteristics associated with the implant by promoting growth of cellular tissue in at least one direction relative to the surface of the implant; a holding structure (base structure) coupled to a first end of the port structure, the holding structure comprising an encircling ring (ring near 8) protruding from the first end of the port structure, the encircling ring comprising a plurality of openings spaced around said encircling ring; and a connecting structure (5) coupled to a second end of the port structure, the connecting structure protruding out of tissue when the implant is inserted into a body and capable of conditionally attaching to a connecting element (Figures 1-2).



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 31 and 33-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Svensson et al. (USPN5,098397).

Svensson et al. meets the claim limitations as described above except the specific tactile surface widths, depths and distance.

Regarding claim 28, lacking specific criticality, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the device of Svensson et al. with the grooves as claimed by Applicant in order to improve tissue retention, and since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 04/04/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's Representative asserts that the Svensson et al. (USPN5,098397) reference does not disclose the specific port structure with a first and second discrete regions with one or more and a plurality of tactile areas respectively.

The Examiner has fully considered applicant's arguments but they are not persuasive. It is examiners position that given a careful reading, the claims do not distinguish over the prior art of record.

The Examiner asserts the prior art Svensson et al. (USPN5,098397) discloses the different areas as shown in the marked up drawing above. Svensson et al. discloses a first region comprising a single lip groove and a second region comprising a

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series of circumferential grooves, each having a small circumference. With each region being separated by an wall portion (8).

The prior art of record teaches all elements as claimed and these elements satisfy all structural, functional, operational, and spatial limitations currently in the claims. Therefore the standing rejections are proper and maintained.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher D. Koharski whose telephone number is 571-272-7230. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30am to 2:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Examiner, Art Unit 3763

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3763